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## MH council aims for 5.3 per cent levy increase

by CHAD INGRAM Times Staff

Minden Hills councillors are aiming for a 5.3 per cent increase in the township's tax levy over the 2019 budget, as they head into their third round of 2020 draft budget discussions later this month.

Council held a second round of budget talks during a special meeting on Jan. 9, where department heads had trimmed their departmental budgets since initial budget discussions in December. The second draft of the 2020 draft budget showed total expenses of some \$26.4 million, and included \$10.6 million for parks, recreation and cultural services, which includes costs associated with the arena project; \$6.1 million for transportation, which includes the roads department; approximately \$3.5 million for the protection of persons and property, which includes the township's OPP bill; more than \$3 million for environmental services, which includes the operation of the township's landfills; \$2.3 million for general government, which includes administration: \$560,000 for the operation of the township's planning department; and \$165,000 for health and welfare.

The draft budget contains a 7.47 per cent increase in wages due in part to the addition see SOME page 2



#### **Learning about fur harvesters**

Fin, left, and Solomon Johnston model some hats by Ann Kumala of Kumala Furs during the annual workshop by the Minden District Fur Harvesters at the Minden Hills Community Centre on Jan. 12. See more on page 8. /CHAD **INGRAM Staff** 

## County aims for 15 per cent emissions reduction

by CHAD INGRAM Times Staff

The County of Haliburton will aim to decease greenhouse gas emissions from its corporate operations by 15 per cent by 2030.

Councillors on the county's planning and environment advisory committee received a presentation from county climate co-ordinator Korey McKay during a Jan. 8 meeting. McKay was hired in the fall and will be creating a climate change mitigation plan for the county, including its four lower-tier municipalities, during the next couple of years.

One of her first tasks was to compile data to determine current emission levels. In terms of overall corporate carbon dioxide emissions for the county and its lower tiers, the waste sitting in the townships' landfills constitutes the greatest amount at 77.3 per cent. Municipal vehicle fleets produce 16.1 per cent of emissions, municipal buildings 6.4 per cent, and water and waste water systems 0.2 per cent. Landfills are the responsibility of the lower tiers, and McKay will be visiting the county's respective lower-tier councils next month, looking at local emissions and setting reduction targets with each of the lower-tier

The operations of the upper tier of the county produce fewer emissions than the more widespread operations of the lower tiers, at 5.5 per cent of overall municipal emissions. Algonquin Highlands produces 16.5 per cent;

see LANDFILLS page 5



## **MINDEN** SUBARU



13061 Hwy 35 Minden, ON 705-286-6126

# Some roads projects deferred

from page 1

of new positions, and an 11.18 per cent increase in the cost of employee benefits. Wages constitute approximately \$3.5 million of the budget, benefits approximately \$1.1 million.

The second draft of the budget presented to councillors by CAO/treasurer Lorrie Blanchard during the Jan. 9 meeting contained a 7.3 per cent increase over the 2019 tax levy, which would amount to some \$9 million coming from property taxation.

Department heads had each made reductions to their departmental budgets. "Staff have regrettably reduced several items," read a report from Travis Wilson, director of public works, showing numerous roads projects that had been deferred. These included a number of road brushing projects, the application of slurry seal along Wigamog Road, and \$650,000 worth of work along Bobycaygeon Road. Wilson's report also recommended the township undertake debenture funding for projects including the rehabilitation of Sedgwick Road bridge, the rehabilitation of the Sunnybrook bridge in downtown Minden, and the construction of IGA Road.

The IGA Road project, valued at \$390,000, has been on the township's books for a number of years, deferred by council during the budgeting process each year.

"I can guarantee it's the first road we start getting calls about in the spring," Wilson told councillors, stressing he wanted to see the project completed this year. The Sunnybrook bridge project has an estimated cost of nearly \$420,000.

While councillors seemed comfortable proceeding with a debenture for these projects, that was less true of the Sedgwick bridge rehabilitation, which would cost approximately \$1 million.

"This is a million dollars," said Councillor Bob Carter, adding he thought the township should hold out for funding from upper levels of government for the project. "It's a huge ticket item for a lightly used bridge."

Wilson said that if the township was not going to proceed

with the rehabilitation of the nearly century-old bridge, that it would likely require inspections be performed by an engineering consultant every four to six months. He also noted that with inflation, each year council chooses to delay a project, it ultimately means the project will be more expensive to complete.

Mayor Brent Devolin was in agreement with Carter that the township should remove the Sedgwick bridge project from the list until it could receive grant funding from upper levels of government to assist with the cost.

"This is the most gut-wrenching budget that we've had in the five years that I've been here," said Devolin, adding council was going to have to make some very difficult decisions. "So that we don't get shot in the street, I would propose, for the 2020 budget, that has to come out."

Councillor Pam Sayne was adamant that money to fix drainage issues on Shetland Road be included in any debenture. The cost of that work is estimated at \$220,000.

"The first time Shetland Road came to council was in 2010," said Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell.

Wilson's report also included a number of projects that had not been included even in the first draft of the 2020 budget, and said the township basically needed about \$4 million a year in the roads budget just to keep its existing assets up to par.

"It would keep us stabilized," Wilson said. Wilson also cautioned council that more reserves needed to be accrued for the Scotch Line landfill.

Ultimately, councillors decided to dip into the township's reserves in order to bring the 7.3 per cent levy increase down to 5.3 per cent. The exact details of how that will work are to be determined, and will come back to the council table in a staff report when council sees the third draft of the budget on Jan. 30.

The tax levy increase in Minden Hills for 2019 was 6.4 per cent, equating to a residential tax rate increase of just more than three per cent.

# Extra-curriculars, field trips affected by job action Elementary school teachers are not participating in trips or supervising extra curricular activities in order to

Elementary school teachers are not participating in field trips or supervising extra-curricular activities in order to demonstrate their frustration with contract talks with the provincial government.

On Monday, Jan. 13, members of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, which includes all of the elementary schools in Haliburton County, escalated their job action.

Additionally, ETFO indicated that rotating strikes would commence beginning Jan. 20 if critical issues were not addressed by the government by Jan. 17.

"In six months of contract talks, the Ford government's education minister has given his negotiators no mandate to discuss anything other than cuts to education including a \$150-million cut to public elementary education," said ETFO president Sam Hammond in a statement. "That's why there has been negligible progress on substantive issues like supports for special education, protecting the kindergarten model, addressing classroom-based violence and compensation that keeps up with the cost of inflation."

ETFO members will also arrive to work no earlier than 30 minutes before the start of instruction and will leave within 15 minutes following the end of the instructional day.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce responded to ETFO's escalation last week by calling on union leaders to back down. "Union leaders promised that their escalation would not impact students and their learning. Regrettably, they have again broken that promise, however we will uphold our commitment to parents, to stay at the bargaining table and work as hard as it takes to reach a deal, that keeps students in class," he said in a statement on Jan. 9.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has also been putting pressure on the province following fruitless negotiations.

OSSTF members at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and the alternate education centre participated in two one-day strikes in December, but are not scheduled to participate in the Jan. 15 one-day action.

High school teachers will also not be supervising EQAO standardized testing, which the Trillium Lakelands District School Board said would require adjustments.

"Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) will not be able to administer the Grade 9 EQAO math assessment without teacher supervision," a labour update on the school board's website reads. "The Grade 9 EQAO math assessment will be postponed for all TLDSB secondary schools until normal circumstances prevail. As this will impact final mark calculations for students, the final 30 per cent of Grade 9 math marks will be a combination of a culminating activity and the final exam as per the Ministry of Education Growing Success document."

OSSTF has said it opposes the province's move to increase class sizes and institute mandatory e-learning. They've also asked for cost-of-living increases, which Lecce has said would be prohibitively expensive.

## New fire chief in Minden Hills

Minden Hills announced this week that Nelson Johnson is the new chief of its volunteer fire department, starting in the role Jan. 13.

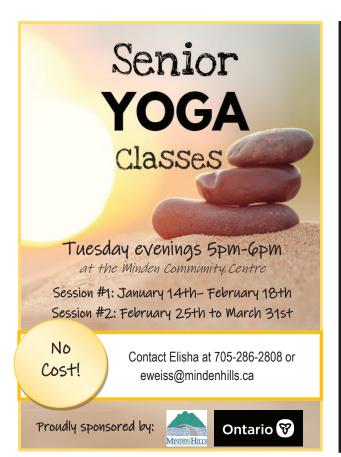
"Nelson brings with him over 25 years of progressive experience in the fire service industry, both in the field and in various senior leadership roles, including training officer, deputy chief and fire chief," reads a release from the township. "Nelson has worked for various organizations, including Firemaster Oilfield Services, the Town of Bonnyville, Alberta and the City of Iqaluit, Nunavut."

"In his role as fire chief for Minden Hills, Nelson will be

responsible for fire and emergency services, and will provide proactive leadership in policy development and implementation, fire prevention and suppression, financial administration, staff recruitment and training, and other administrative requirements, relative to fire services and emergency management operations."

Johnson replaces Mike Bekking, who's been in the chief's chair since former fire chief Doug Schell resigned from the position in the fall of 2017.

- Staf



## ATTENTION: NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY SERVICES



We are currently working on a new publication called County Life Magazine that will be distributed beginning in April 2020. This magazine will be celebrating the successes in the Haliburton Highlands and much more.

This magazine will also include a **Non-Profit Community Service Directory.** There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at *classifieds@haliburtonpress.com* 

# Staff restructuring in Minden Hills

by CHAD INGRAM

Times Staff

There is some restructuring taking place with senior staff positions in the Township of Minden Hills.

Since 2014, Lorrie Blanchard has served jointly as the township's chief administrative officer and treasurer, and held the position of treasurer for years before that. Blanchard told the *Times* that based on her recommendation due to the growing requirements for both positions, the roles will be separated, with Blanchard remaining the township's director of finance, and the township seeking a new CAO. The new CAO position will be a joint clerk/CAO role, with current clerk Vicki Bull returning to the role of deputy clerk once the new staff person has been hired. Bull has served as clerk since former clerk Dawn Newhook assumed the clerk's job with the Township of Algonquin Highlands last year.

Blanchard told the paper she and Bull will remain in their current roles until the new CAO/clerk has been hired.

## First Haliburton County homebirth of 2020 'like a dream'

by SUE TIFFIN Times Staff

When Annalee Hunter went to bed at around 7:30 p.m. on the night of Jan. 5, she had no idea that when she woke up in the morning, she'd be able to have breakfast and meet her new sister, Kinslee.

Kinslee Maya was born just a few hours later, at 10:13 p.m., to Jaimie and Nick Hunter in their Irondale home, making her the first Haliburton County resident born at home in 2020 in the care of the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft.

"In the morning it was really nice because my husband got her up and got her breakfast and when I was ready I said, why don't you guys come up, and he brought her up and we told her, 'Your new sister was born last night," said Jaimie. "So she got to meet her sister right first thing in the morning. It was pretty special.'

Jaimie had been excited for the morning introduction, and for the chance to be comfortable at home. Although the local midwives offer support for hospital births, including csections, or home births, this time Jaimie and Nick opted for a home birth after Annalee's hospital birth about 19 months ago was more exciting than planned.

"I think it was the drive there with Annalee, was ... not the nicest," said Jaimie hesitantly, and then, laughing: "Um, our car actually broke down on the way to the hospital. So that was very stressful.'

While on the way to Peterborough Regional Health Centre, where Annalee was born, their midwife Annalee Winter, who little Annalee is named for, turned back to pick them up when it was determined an ambulance would take longer.

"...it being my first baby, I didn't really know. I just had all of these thoughts of, oh my goodness, I'm going to have her on the side of the road," said Jaimie. "We were just an emotional wreck, but Annalee [the midwife], she has this little tiny car and we loaded everything we could in her car, and she got us there and she delivered Annalee and everything worked out wonderful. And I mean, she has a beautiful name, so it all worked out.'

The experience is one that Jaimie and Nick won't soon forget.

"I found it prolonged the whole experience, whereas if I had stayed home things would have transitioned smoother and quicker," said Jaimie. "With this one, I kind of thought back and envisioned, if we had of had Annalee here, how it would be different, so we wanted to do it this time. And I mean, the weather, we didn't want to worry about the driving conditions and whatnot. Just the trust I had in the midwives was very, very reassuring."

Jaimie had also heard positive stories from friends who had chosen homebirths, and Nick was supportive of the choice.

The midwives gave Jaimie what she said was a "pretty simple checklist of not a lot of things," that needed to be prepared



Kinslee Maya Hunter was the first baby in Haliburton County to be born at home through the care of the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft. She was born to Jaimie and Nick Hunter at their Irondale home on Jan. 5. / Submitted

for Kinslee's arrival, like receiving blankets. They also provided a birthing tub should Jaimie want it during her labour.

"We didn't end up using it, but it was a lovely option to know that I had it," she said.

"With Kinslee, she did come quick," said Jaimie, of a faster second birth. "The midwives got here around 9:20 p.m. maybe and she was born at 10:13. I knew I wanted to labour at home, just on my own, keeping in control, I knew they were just a call away. [The midwife] was here in 20 minutes. Everything went perfect."

The homebirth experience is one that Jaimie and Nick are grateful to have experienced.

"It was so lovely," said Jaimie. "We had her and they check her vitals every little bit. I think they stuck around a couple of hours, but when they were done they tucked us into bed and it was magical to be at home with our new baby. I had had a shower so my husband was doing skin on skin with Kinslee. When I got out, I got into bed, they packed up their big huge backpack and put a blanket on us and we said our goodbyes. It was really like a dream almost, to be honest.'

Kinslee's due date was Jan. 4, and leading up to that day, Jaimie said, "every day was like, is she coming today? Is she coming today?" Learning that Kinslee is the first baby to be born at home in Haliburton County this year is "very special," said Jaimie.

"I just can't recommend the midwives enough, I'm so appreciative of everything they do," she said. "I think very highly of them all. We knew right from the start we wanted

to have a home birth with this one. It all went just as planned and she's here now."

Kinslee is also welcomed by grandparents Kelly Morris of Minden, and Jeff and Nanci Hunter of Gooderham.

Seth Koster of Bancroft was the first baby born under the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft care this year, on Jan. 3 at PRHC while Lennon Skelding of Eagle Lake is the midwives' first baby from Haliburton County born this year, at PRHC in the afternoon of Jan. 5. Last year the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft supported 106 babies - 48 boys and 58 girls. Seventy-two of those babies were born at hospital while 34 were born out of hospital. The midwives are currently booking clients up to and including September

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#### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Public Welcome

Meetings are held at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street.

Jan 30 - Combined COTW/Regular Council Meeting For Council, Boards & Advisory Committee meetings, visit

Note: Council meetings are reduced to one (1) for the months of January, July, August and December.

#### RIVERWALK & WETLANDS **BOARDWALK – WINTER USAGE**

The Boardwalk & Logger's Crossing Bridge are cleared of snow regularly but are not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using these pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

#### **WINTER PARKING**

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours.

Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.



#### NOTICE – 2020 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 3rd Round of its 2020 Budget deliberations during its Regular Meeting of Council scheduled

for January 30, 2020.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

#### **WINTER SAND AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE**

Is available at the Minden Curling Club parking lot, 50 Prentice Street for residential use. Please note there is a limit of one five-gallon container per car. Sand is for personal use only, no commercial users please.

## Climate change co-ordinator plans to lead the way

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

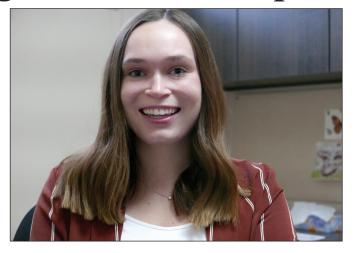
Korey McKay is in the unique position of working in a job that didn't exist two years ago when she enrolled in a master's program that would eventually enable her to work in the role.

McKay joined the county last fall as climate change co-ordinator after graduating from the Master of Climate Change program at the University of Waterloo. The position was developed last year to "support the County of Haliburton's initiative on Climate Change (mitigation and adaption)," with McKay's role to "direct, co-ordinate, plan, implement and monitor the County of Haliburton climate change plan," according to the job posting.

Originally from Bowmanville, McKay first enrolled at the University of Waterloo to study in the science and business degree program. She gained experience in governance working federally in environmental compliance, and provincially with the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, as well as for the Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough before starting grad school in 2018.

McKay wanted to work at the community level, which she said generally means working for a municipality or non-profit.

"Coming out of my master's, I wanted to work at the community level, because you see a lack of action at the global and national level and it can get kind of disheartening," she said, noting that many hopeful stories come out of community-level action. "We not only control a lot of the greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the impacts at a local level, but also what you do at a local level can almost be



Korey McKay, Haliburton County's first climate change co-ordinator, started at the county last fall. She comes to the position with an undergrad in science and business, and as a graduate of the Master of Climate Change program at the University of Waterloo. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

treated as a case study that can be replicated elsewhere, so it's sort of a more bottom-up approach to climate change."

The county's climate change plan has three main phases, corporate mitigation, corporate adaptation, and community mitigation and adaptation.

"Corporate refers to our municipal operations and services, and community refers to the county as a whole," she told the *Times*. "Mitigation involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions – the causes of climate change – and adaptation involves reducing the negative impacts of climate change – the effects of climate change."

Following the Partners for Climate Protection program, in which municipalities become a member, McKay will work through a five milestone process.

"The first step was doing our greenhouse gas inventory for our corporate operations, the next phase is setting targets to reduce our emissions, and the next phase is to write the actual plan and implementing and monitoring it as time goes on," she said. McKay presented on a corporate climate change target last week to county council, and is writing a plan to adopt targets specific for each of the lower-tier municipalities, which she will present at council meetings as soon as February.

"It's a mix of being sort of an aspirational target, but also looking at our inventory and thinking, OK, what do we have the power to change, and especially within the next 10 years. So making some calculations on, if we change this truck to a hybrid, where does that leave us, what percent reduction. The process is always tricky because we have a growing population and we're not going to eliminate any services so it's more so looking at how we can make efficiencies and reduce our emissions."

McKay said she understands the community has an interest in climate change, which she called a "strong positive." Phase 3 of the plan involves consultation with the community.

McKay herself has made lifestyle changes to do more in her personal life toward environmental sustainability, including adopting a vegetarian lifestyle and bringing her own reusable bags and cutlery.

"I think what individuals can do gets a lot of attention, and I think going forward, corporations and government should get more pressure," she said. "I do think individuals have a large role to play, whether that be eating less meat, flying less, reducing their car travel, but you can't put too much pressure on yourself. For example, living in Haliburton [County], you kind of have to drive around, and not all of us can afford an electric vehicle. We can put in as much effort as we can with being an individual, but of course voting is very important, either on the ballot or with our dollar."

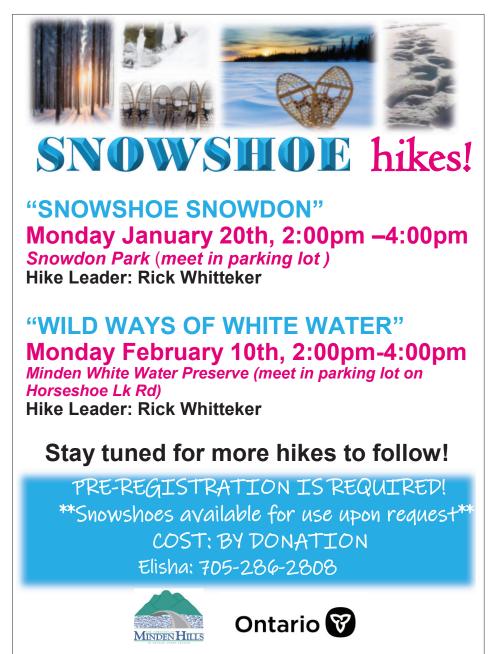
Since learning how climate change is linked to other social and economic issues, McKay said it's what she wanted to devote her energy and time toward.

"For me, it's more of an equity injustice issue that those who are least responsible for the problem face the worst impact," said McKay. "To me that's probably the worst part of this whole problem and I think maybe a lot of people don't realize that. It's usually our wealthier, well-developed countries [that] spew out all the greenhouse gas emissions, but it's those who live in more developing areas or small island states that are experiencing the droughts, the floods."

McKay is excited to be in a role in which she feels she can make influence in the climate world.

"It's kind of exciting because I try to look at what other municipalities are doing because we have so much to learn from each other, but there's not a lot of municipalities our size [taking action], so we're kind of going to be a leader in that way."





# Landfills biggest source of emissions

from page 1

Highlands East 21.4 per cent; Minden Hills 27.1 per cent; and Dysart et al 29.5.

In terms of the County of Haliburton's corporate emissions, 82 per cent come from its vehicle fleet and 18 per cent from its buildings. County operations produce 189 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, or the equivalent of 182 passenger vehicles driven each year, or the energy use of 103 homes for one year.

"If you were to continue on in a business-as-usual way, and not take any specific action on climate change, then our emissions are forecasted to rise," McKay said, explaining that with the county's annual population growth of about one per cent, it was forecasted its emissions would rise by 13 per cent by 2030.

In setting a reduction target, levels from 2019 will be used as a base, with the target year of 2030. This, McKay told councillors, is enough time to implement climate change mitigation strategies, "but also close enough that it holds us accountable to getting started right away."

Reducing emissions can be achieved in a variety of ways, from behaviour modification of employees - less idling of roads department vehicles, for example – to building retrofits to reduced fuel consumption from the transition to more fuelefficient vehicles, so on and so forth. Establishing exact strategies to achieve targets will follow, but last week councillors were asked to first pick a target the county would aspire to achieve.

"We want the target to stress urgency, but also be realistic," McKay told councillors. "We know the science is telling us we need to reduce our emissions as much as possible as soon as possible, and we want to show leadership as a rural municipality, but at the same time, we don't want to set ourselves up for failure."

McKay presented a range of suggested options, targets which she said all skewed toward the aggressive end of the scale under the Partners for Climate Protection program, un-

der which the plan is being constructed. The options included a 15 per cent reduction in overall emissions; a 25 per cent reduction for buildings with a 15 per cent reduction for vehicles; and a 20 per cent overall reduction. McKay also said councillors were free to set any target they'd like, suggesting that a 10 per cent reduction might fall into the category of a more conservative target.

After some discussion, councillors on the committee decided they'd go with a 15 per cent overall reduction as a target.

"I just find this is nice to put on a piece of paper, but when the rubber meets the road . . . I don't think you're going to be able to achieve [the targets]," said Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy. "We have a growing county here. The roads department reported earlier a 20 per cent increase in snow incidents already this year, it means more trucks on the road and more assets being used. Ambulance services are increasing the per-call volumes and now expansion of service,



We want the target to stress urgency, but also be realistic.

— COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE CO-ORDINATOR KOREY MCKAY

and you're looking for a reduction of almost 40,000 litres of fuel . . . that's a pretty huge initiative to take. I believe Peterborough's playing around with the solar ambulance . . . should we all be waiting and buying Tesla pickups?"

"I think it's a really good start for giving us a picture of where we are and where we need to be heading, but I can see the same discombobulation," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt. "I struggle with how you choose a target when you don't know the impacts." Moffatt added there were cost and budget implications and service delivery implications that needed to be considered.

"I'm not understanding how we could make a commitment to a percentage when we don't actually know if it's going to cost us five dollars or \$5 million," Moffatt said. "... We can push a little harder to make those innovative suggestions come to life, but then the fun part will be figuring out how you're going to pay for them."

Moffatt also asked if there was flexibility in the target, to which McKay said yes, emphasizing the targets were meant to be an aspirational starting point.

Planner Charlsey White said that climate mitigation actions would kept in line with what is realistic for the county.

'We've talked about what's realistic and what is this going to look like," White said. "In September, when we start the county budget for next year, are we going to come and say we need a million dollars? No, that's not what we're talking

White said it could mean purchasing a hybrid vehicle instead of a traditional gas-powered vehicle, realizing that in the context of the county's topography, fully electric vehicles may not be appropriate for many applications.

"Any change is better than doing nothing," White said at one point in the meeting.

Public works director Craig Douglas also noted that the county's dispersed, rural nature means that it won't be able to achieve the kind of aggressive reduction targets that more condensed, urban communities may be able to.





#### **Baz Littlerock Band** (Jan 24)

A High-energy rock band that plays a wide variety of rock classics.

#### **Neon Nostalgic** (Jan 25)

A high energy rock show in the format of a LIVE BAND VIDEO DANCE PARTY. Featuring all your favourite songs synced to the actual original music videos.

#### Rude E Bones (Jan 31)

A high energy band playing an eclectic mix of tunes to rock the room including Queen, Journey, AC/DC, Zeppelin, Doobies, Bowie, Foo fighters, the Cult, Prince and much more!

#### **Arden & the Tourists** (Feb 1)

A pond Hockey and Haliburton favourite. This event sold out last year! Limited number of tickets are available.

Doors Open: 9pm

Pricing: \$15 ADVANCE. \$20 AT THE DOOR. Wrist band policy in place. Players and volunteers FREE. Visit the Canadian National Pond Hockey Facebook page for info on our discounted ticket offer.

#### Volunteers Wanted!

Join our team as we host teams from all over for two weekends of fun! Various indoor and outdoor positions available. Volunteers receive event swag, meals invitation to all Pond parties and volunteer recognition party.



















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## Any change

**CHAD INGRAM** 

NY CHANGE is better than doing nothing," the county's planning director said last week, as councillors grappled with choosing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target that will help lay the groundwork for the county's climate change mitigation plan.

And that's really the takeaway when it comes to climate change work the county is embarking on: Doing something is better than doing nothing. The journey of a

mile begins with a single step. Nobody is expecting, at least I don't believe, for the county to be transformed into a solar-and-wind-powered community where municipal staff zip around in electric vehicles. At least not any time in the near future.

Reporter It's about making meaningful, but affordable and reasonable, changes in operations and facilities that will help to shrink the county's carbon footprint over time. This may mean purchasing hybrid vehicles instead of traditionally fuelled ones when replacing fleet vehicles. It may mean environmentally friendly retrofits to buildings when it's time for them to be renovated or updated. As was mentioned by the county's new climate change co-ordinator last week, it may mean something as simple as mitigating the amount of time county roads department vehicles are left idling.

Councillors eventually settled on an emissions reduction target of 15 per cent by 2030. That's for corporately produced emissions at the upper-tier level: the amount of emissions actually produced by the corporation of the County of Haliburton itself. There was indication that some councillors felt they were picking an arbitrary number, unclear of what the cost or budget implications of achieving that target might be. The plan works in such a way that targets are set, then plans to achieve them are laid out.

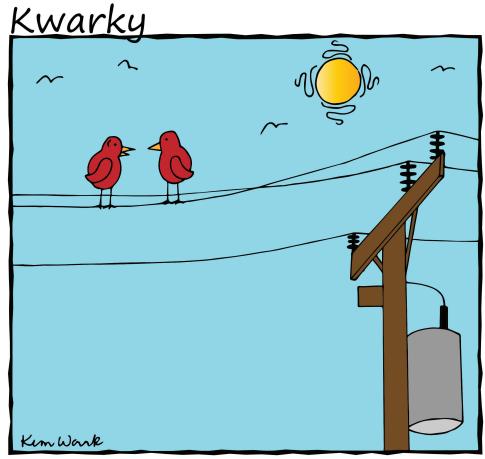
But these targets are not written in stone. There is no legal requirement to meet them. They are meant as an achievable aspiration. It's about embarking on a path, creating a culture of changed corporate

> behaviour that will reduce emissions over time. It's about building that way of thinking into the way municipalities do business.

Next month, each of the lower-tier councils will be visited by the climate change coordinator, each setting reduction targets for

their own municipalities. When it comes to municipal greenhouse gas emissions in the county as a whole, the vast majority – more than 77 per cent – come from solid waste; landfills.

Landfills in the county are owned and operated by the lower-tier governments, so it seems pretty clear that reaching their reduction targets will include re-examining landfill operations. The landfills may belong to the townships, but the waste they contain is all of ours. In this way, each and every one of us can help reduce the carbon footprint of local landfills with our consumer habits and household practices, such as purchasing fewer products with plastic packaging, composting at home and ensuring that items that are still usable find a new home rather than being tossed in the trash.



"Cancel my landline...are you crazy?

## Pike flies

HIS WEEK, I have been making an effort to tie at least one pike fly every day so that when the spring season and open water finally arrives, I will be ready.

"People fly fish for pike?" you ask. The answer is yes. Pike, in fact, are an excellent fish to catch on a fly rod.

The thing is it takes a special kind of bravery – and not because you are dealing with a big toothy fish either. Actually, if we have anything to be fearful of, it's the pike fly itself.

The differences between a pike fly and a regular trout or bass fly are many but, primarily, it is this: a pike fly is way bigger and tied on a heavier hook that hurts far more. You'll be reminded of this when a sudden crosswind realigns the trajectory of your forward cast so that it intercepts the back of your head or elsewhere.

And that's where the real problem begins.

You see, people in the emergency room waiting area tend to notice a large pike fly hanging from your head much more than they would a tiny trout fly. In fact, often, when you have a tiny trout fly lodged in your head, people just think you are there to deal with a parasite – which I think you'll agree is far less concerning.

That, in a nutshell, is why I take more care when tying my pike flies.

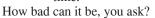
Call me prideful, but the last thing I want the fellow patients and medical staff to think is "Wow! That guy is not a very good fly tyer."

The quality of your pike flies is particularly important in rural areas. For, in the medical facilities there, the unwritten rule is, when you have a fishing lure or fly extracted from any part of your body, the hospital gets to keep it. This is the sole reason I once dreamed of going to medical school.

These confiscated flies and lures are then placed in a display case in a prominent hallway, for all to see. But, the truth is no one really looks at that case and all the flies and lures within, other than fellow anglers who visit the hospital for similar reasons.

That's why I only want to showcase my best work.

As much as I hate to admit this, one poorly tied fly prominently displayed in a hospital showcase can cause irreparable damage to your reputation as a fly tyer. That's why I tie every pike fly with the presumption that it will eventually find its final resting place in a hospital showcase where it will be judged by other anglers for all time.



Well, I once knew a fellow who had to go to hospital to have a size 3/0 Pike Bunny Leech removed from his posterior. I have been told by a reliable source that the procedure ruined his brand new set of waders, put a run in his favourite pair of leopard skin thong underwear and added an third eye to his unicorn-themed lowerback tattoo. Now, because of that one visit I can't even look that guy in the eye anymore.

I hate to be so judgmental but when they put his fly in the hospital showcase, it was plain to see he was using fake bunny fur in his patterns and low quality hooks. As I said, that kind of thing can get people talking.



STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

### **INOTHER**WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

## A winter cold and wet

Y FIRST GLIMPSE of the bird has my mouth watering. It looks plump and juicy and I imagine it sitting in a roast pan, plucked and sprinkled with rosemary needles and a touch of garlic powder. A closer look tells me its plumpness is merely feathers puffed out from nervousness over spotting my presence. It actually is a skinny little bird, weak from starvation as it huddles beneath the icy rain-draped lower branches of a young balsam.

My thoughts of it as a savoury meal immediately turn to sadness and

It is a young partridge, perhaps not yet a year old. Or, to be technically correct, it is a young ruffed grouse, which are mistakenly called partridge in some places, notably in Northwestern Ontario where I grew up. The only par-

> tridge we have in Canada is the imported Hungarian partridge, a different bird altogether.

> The name doesn't matter. It is a sick bird and a grim reminder of how changing climate is changing nature's balance.

It is not as dramatic a reminder as the one billion animals estimated to have perished in Australia's wild fires. But a reminder still.

Abnormal summer heat and arid conditions sparked the wild fires that have ravaged Australia's

A moody winter of madcap temperature swings, ice pellets and freezing rain are what has weakened this little grouse, and likely others.

JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Temperatures this winter have been all over the Celsius or Fahrenheit or whatever scale you depend upon. One morning last week dawned at -25°C. The very next dawn brought 2°C.

Erratic precipitation hasn't been helpful either. It rained, at least a trace, on 21 days between Nov. 1 and the first two weeks of January. The weekend just passed saw almost two inches of rain fall on parts of Haliburton County.

And, there has been little blanketing snow, which provides winter protection for some forest critters. There have been numerous days of snow flurries and short-lived squalls but no days of heavy snowfalls.

The little grouse that I have come across has spent much of the winter cold and wet. Chilly dankness isn't good for any living thing with a set of lungs.

In a more normal winter, the grouse would find warmth, and protection from predators, by burrowing in deep and fluffy snow. That type of snow is their friend and does not restrict their ground travel because each fall they grow pectinations, fleshy bristles that act like snowshoes to help them walk across snow.

They certainly don't need snowshoes this winter. Snow in many places has been only a few inches deep and hard and icy.

The current situation of little snow, icy rain and winds force the birds into thick conifer cover where they lose weight and perhaps starve or freeze. When they do venture out to find food, their weakened condition makes them easy prey for raptors, foxes and coyotes.

Not a pleasant scenario for a bird species already in decline in Ontario, and especially in northeastern states like Pennsylvania and New York, which estimates grouse populations are down 80 per cent since the 1960s.

Grouse are an important game bird, providing enjoyable recreational hunting opportunities, which in turn provides revenue for hunting-related industries and for government programs.

They are an important part of food chains, feeding on plants and insects while providing food for predatory birds and other animals.

They are an icon of our uplands. Their quick, sharp-turned flights and their spring drumming and elaborate courtship dances can't help but intensify our fascination with nature.

I hope this little bird survives until spring when it can find a mate and produce some offspring that will in turn help rebuild grouse populations

There is a chance it will. Daylight hours are getting longer and stronger and some late winter warm sun will encourage shrubs and trees to begin sprouting the buds and catkins that grouse love and need to survive.

The experts forecast that global temperatures will continue to rise, creating more winters like this one. If they are correct, we need to start figuring out how changed winters will affect our grouse and other wildlife and what we as individuals can do to help ensure their populations always are stable and healthy.

## rrrr ... it's cold!

lived in an old house. It was built in 1902. Over the first 10 years that we were there we did renovations, including insulation, to make the place warmer in the winter months. For the years that we were there, visi-

tors (mostly my family - sorry folks) would often comment or complain about how cold it was Now we're living in a newer home with two wood stoves that supplement the forced air heating but I've decided that I actually like it a little colder. Turns out it is actually healthier for us and for the environment.

**LAURIE SWEIG** The thing is our bodies ad-Practical Fitness just to temperature changes. As Canadians we do that quite well. We do add a bunch of layers of clothing in the winter but isn't it amazing how 10°C feels so warm in the spring compared to the fall? We acclimatize as we expose ourselves to changes in temperature. Keeping our homes warm in the winter to the point where we are comfortable wearing short sleeves doesn't do our bodies much good and really does make winter feel a lot

There are two main health benefits from

longer than it has to.

living in colder temperatures, and they are:

• Weight loss – when your body has to work to keep you warm it burns calories. The trick is not to replace those calories.

• Quality sleep – we sleep better when it's cold, and we know there are a host of ben-

efits from sleeping well.

Making a change to your home environment should be gradual. Drop the thermostat by one or two degrees per week until you find your comfort zone. The beauty of making this adjustment is that being outside won't feel as cold, and the winters won't feel as long. Then there's the added benefit of saving money on heating costs. However, I truly believe the greatest good

is that if we all dropped the thermostat (or raised it in the hot parts of the world that use air conditioning) a couple of degrees we'd be helping to slow climate change. Talk about win-win!

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



## DORSETNEWS

Lee Ross burgesslt@me.com

The 30th annual Dorset Snowball is just weeks away. Buttons can be purchased for \$4 at the Rec Centre, Dorset Post Office, Dorset Garage, Pizza on Earth, Mountain

Trout House and Robinson's. As always there will be lots of great activities, both indoors and out, for the entire family. If you would like to enter a float in the Snowball Parade please contact the Rec Centre at recreation@ algonquinhighlands.ca.

The always popular Hockey Night in Dorset will be taking place at the Dorset Ice Palace (weather permitting) on the Saturday night.

Teams Lake of Bays and the Dorset Hounds will be competing this year for the Dorset Cup! For more information please keep an eye out on Dorset's social media account.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 and Wednesday, Feb. 26 will be Stone Soup Simmer and Share at Knox Church Hall, next to the Dorset Post Office. Come out at 10 a.m. and bring your favourite ingredients and share in the sim-

mering, or come at 12 p.m. to eat or take some home. Leftovers

will be shared with the Door Youth Centre in Huntsville. Happy birthday to Deb Eichler, Dave Bradbury, Brenda Davies, Samantha Black, Shirley Brown,

Madison Allore and Dave Haley. Happy anniversary to Rick and Doris Nash. For birthdays and submissions please send them to burgesslt@

## Book of the Month - January

PNNIVERSARY



Dear Scarlet by Teresa Wong

An intimate and moving memoir, Dear Scarlet sees author Teresa Wong writing and illustrating the story of her struggle with postpartum depression in the form of a letter to her daughter Scarlet. Equal parts heartbreaking and funny, this poignant graphic novel perfectly captures the quiet desperation of those suffering from PPD and the profound feelings of inadequacy and loss. As Teresa grapples with her fears and anxieties and grasps at potential remedies, coping mechanisms, and her mother's Chinese elixirs, we come to understand one woman's battle against the cruel dynamics of postpartum depression.

Dear Scarlet is a deeply personal journey through the complexities of new motherhood, offering hope to those affected by PPD, as well as reassurance that they are not alone. It is part of the Mental Health and Wellbeing collection currently featured at Haliburton County Public Library.



#### **Fur Harvesters host workshop**



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## Continued reservations about TripAdvisor at committee

by CHAD INGRAM Times Staff

Some members of Haliburton County's tourism advisory committee, and the manager of one of the county's largest accommodators, continue to have concerns about the proposed use of online travel company TripAdvisor by the county's tourism department.

Part of the 2020 tourism marketing plan is for the county to purchase a destination page with TripAdvisor, a widely used website for accommodation reviews and bookings.

"We definitely need to be there," said county tourism director Amanda Virtanen when she initially presented the idea to the committee in the fall. "It would also really help our Google presence."

During a Jan. 8 committee meeting, members received and discussed a letter from John Teljeur, general manager of the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. Among other criticisms, Teljeur's letter implored the county not to proceed with the TripAdvisor plan.

"The plan to invest anything in a TripAdvisor promotion will actually hurt accommodation providers rather than help them," Teljeur's letter read. "Every hotel brand and individual accommodator spends a lot of time/effort to reduce the impact of the excessive commissions paid to Expedia, TripAdvisor and other online travel agents. You're essentially opening the floodgates to something we work so hard to prevent. Pinestone cannot participate in this promotion in any shape or form (not even a listing) because it could lead to driving current customers through TripAdvisor . . . and gouge



I'm not going to recommend a tactic that I don't think will work.

— AMANDA VIRTANEN, TOURISM DIRECTOR

our rate structure. Please reconsider this project."

Rob Berthelot, who owns Halls Lake's Sandy Lake Resort and is a member of the advisory committee, also expressed reservations about the potential county use of TripAdvisor.

"The TripAdvisor [plan] concerns me greatly as an accommodator, because they take somewhere between 15 and 30 per cent,' Berthelot said. "They might not be asking for it right now, but my perception is this is letting the fox into the henhouse.

"My concern is, I want to know more info before we say, let's go ahead with TripAdvisor," he said. "I'm not saying we can't go ahead with it, but I'd like to get some more info before we make a final decision, because I'm concerned about the potential ramifications going forward."

"We did talk about the booking aspect of TripAdvisor a couple of years ago, and because of push-back from the stakeholders, we said, OK, we won't go there on your behalf, because of those percentages," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, explaining that the destination page being talked about in this case was a new product from the company.

"We're all in this together," Virtanen told committee members. "I'm not going to recommend a tactic that I don't think will work. However, I'm going on what Trip-Advisor has told me."

"It's a new product that they're launching this year," Virtanen continued. "It's a page that we have full control over the content. All of the advertising that will be on TripAdvisor will go directly to the accommodators themselves. You don't book through TripAdvisor, it sends the traffic out."

The cost for the full year program would be \$13,000, which includes a customizable destination page and full ad campaign.

"This isn't adversarial at all," Virtanen said. "I just want to do what's best for the community, and when you Google where to stay in Haliburton Highlands, the first thing that comes up is TripAdvisor. I'd rather control that content, if we can."

A number of committee members agreed they would like more information about the program before making a recommendation to county council, and Virtanen will bring more info back to the committee table.

and wish Kaila a warm welcome as she assists you with all your Service needs.





#### Razzamataz Kids' Shows features harmonica virtuoso

Razzamataz Kids' Shows, a locally-run group that brings a family entertainment series to the county featured Mike Stevens: Harmonica Virtuoso at the Highland Hills United Church on Jan.9. Stevens entertained kids and adults alike by sharing his harmonica skills, telling tales, answering questions and playing a concert for the crowd. Upcoming Razzamataz shows return to the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion with Ripopée on March 1, and The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito on April 19. More info at www.razzamataz.ca /SUE TIFFIN Staff



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## Minden honours volunteers who go above and beyond

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Each year, those who give back to their community have the opportunity to be recognized with one of six awards offered to volunteers in Minden Hills who are nominated by those who have noticed their willingness to go above and beyond. Award recipients were announced at the annual Minden Hills township Christmas dinner held this past December.

Sophie Sharpless was the recipient of the Ross Rigney Award for Civic Contribution, and her long list of contributions to the community showcased her role as an "outstanding youth," deserving of the honour. From being a steward of the environment, diligent

in roadside garbage and recycling pickup, to volunteering with the food bank's Christmas basket drive to helping with the milk program at Archie Stouffer Elementary School and being an active Monday night youth group volunteer at ASES, Sophie's kindness and compassion were acknowledged. "Her dedication with the [Monday night youth group's] activities is obvious, as is her commitment to mentoring children and youth in a positive recreational setting with a focus on building self-esteem and social skills," said presenter Lois Rigney.

Sophie was also recognized as being the volunteer of the year by the Haliburton County Youth Sailing Association for her wide-reaching involvement from power washing boats to coaching participants. "Their board of directors have stated that this



Minden Hills Councillor Pam Sayne, left, presented Maria Ellis with the Good Neighbour Award at the township's annual Christmas dinner held in December, where volunteer award winners were announced. Ellis was celebrated for her work in promoting a sense of community for residents living on Sandy Bay Road and Loyalist Drive. /Submitted

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10:30AM 4 Dog Race
12:00PM 6 Dog Race
1:15PM Kid & Mutt
1:45PM 8 Dog Race
2:45PM Youth race
2:55PM Novice race

2:55PM Novice race
3:00PM Kicksled Race
8:00PM Rock & Roll Never Forgets
Concert at Pinestone
(Bob Seger tribute band)

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th**

9:00AM 1 & 2 Dog Skijoring 10:00AM 4 Dog race 11:30AM 6 Dog race 1:00PM 8 Dog race 2:00PM Youth Race 2:10PM Novice Race

2:15PM



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inaugural year would not have been possible without her efforts," said Rigney.

The Minden Hills Good Neighbour Award recognized Maria Ellis as an unsung hero who has made Minden Hills a more enjoyable community in which to live. Ellis's drive to connect and support the people on Sandy Bay Road and Loyalist Drive were honoured by those who shared her good deeds through the award nomination process.

"[She is] always checking in on people in the neighbourhood and will go out of [her] way to assist anyone in need whether it be watching over someone's house or cottage while they are away, dog sitting, cutting a lawn, shovelling a driveway, watering a vegetable garden, taking people to appointments or assisting with someone's family member who is ill," said presenter Pam Sayne. "Night or day, [she is] always available."

Ellis was also said to "create a sense of community on [her] road by hosting annual parties to bring everyone together for socializing whether they are seasonal, permanent or new residents, and even going door-to-door to drop off veggies from their garden or a freshly baked zucchini bread."

Wendy Connelly was the recipient of the **Gordon A. Monk Award** for volunteerism and citizenship, an award acknowledging those who have demonstrated extensive volunteerism over an extended period of time in

see page 13



# Did Santa Forget?

If you did not find a Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass in your stocking this Christmas, there is still time to take advantage of our Christmas Season Pass Sale.

You won't want to miss this season's great line-up including The Sound of Music, The Importance of Being Ernest, Lucien, Every Brilliant Thing and Across the Pond. All five shows for only **\$160**... that is almost a 15% savings.





Sale ends January 31. After then, all tickets will only be available at regular price, \$37.50. Call 705-457-9933 or 855-457-9933 or buy on line at:

www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca and follow the links to the secure order page.

## Arts, culture, sports and community work recognized

from page 12

multiple areas of service to the community.

As executive director of the Haliburton County fair board for numerous years, Connelly has worn many hats: organizing the food booth, arranging prizes for the horse pulls and auction and soliciting donors to help sponsor awards for the stage show. She organizes the annual beef barbecue fundraiser to help fund the fair, a tradition that her mom began many years ago.

"Countless hours have been spent helping to keep the fair alive as her family have always been active participants," said presenter Donna Monk.

Besides performing with the County Hot Flashes at local nursing homes, Music on the Gull, the Minden country jamborees and Legion events, Connelly sings for the Twelve Mile Historical Church, funerals and anniversary parties. She has also offered her diverse skills for the Hyland Crest family council, the Relay for Life, Canada Day celebrations, the horticultural society and as an active member of St. Paul's Church, organizing their children's Christmas sale, singing country gospel music once a month, serving as a Bible Camp leader, working in the thrift shop and participating with the Sister Act group.

"Wendy is a tireless worker and we do truly feel that she deserves this award for her many years of volunteering and community service," said Monk.

The township's Sports and Recreation Award was awarded to Coleman Heaven for his athletic accomplishments which included winning a silver medal at the 2019 Canoe Kayak Whitewater National Championships in Minden last August. For the past seven years, Heaven has been honing his skills at the Minden White Water Preserve, dedicating time to whitewater kayaking since discovering it at the age of 12.

"The preserve became a place that he frequently went to practice the tricks that freestyle kayakers enjoy while watching and learning from other participants and eventually became a certified instructor, started a kayak club in high school and understanding the risk involved with the sport, also became a certified river rescuer and lifeguard," said Jennifer Hughey, presenting the award. "This was all in the effort to take him to the next level which was the National Kayak

Wendy Connelly, left, was the recipient of this year's Gordon A. Monk Award for Volunteerism and Citizenship as presented by Donna Monk. The award celebrates someone who has demonstrated extensive volunteerism over an extended period of time in multiple areas of service to the community, and Connelly's long-time commitment to the Haliburton County Fair Board and St. Paul's Anglican Church, among other initiatives, was acknowledged. /Submitted

Freestyle Championship."

Hughey said it was the dedication and love to freestyle kayaking sport "that brought this national silver medal home to not only himself, but to the community of Minden."

George Farrell was posthumously awarded the township's Arts and Culture Award. Farrell passed away in 2019 after a short illness. He had worked at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for a decade and was praised by presenter Laurie Carmount for his "knowledge about all areas of culture," and for being a strong supporter and advocate of the arts.

"A dynamic, well-spoken person of many talents, [George Farrell] was known by almost everyone in Minden because of [his] passion for the arts," said Carmount. "Blues nights at the Dominion, arts columns in the local paper, exhibitions of photography and attending as many cultural events as possible, [he] embodied all parts of the arts."

Carmount expressed her appreciation for Farrell and his work on behalf of staff and the township.

The Trillium Award, for an individual, group or business whose horticultural, community beautification, civic pride, protection, conservation or enhancement of the environment efforts support the Communities in Bloom program, was not awarded last year.

The annual volunteer awards program accepts nominations

for six categories of any Minden Hills resident by any resident or recognized group of Haliburton County. For further information visit https://mindenhills.ca/volunteering/ or contact Elisha Weiss at 705-286-2808 or by email at eweiss@ mindenhills.ca.



A dynamic, well—spoken person of many talents, [George Farrell] was known by almost everyone in Minden because of [his] passion for the arts.

— LAURIE CARMOUNT



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# Hawks prioritize development

by DARREN LUM

Times Staff

Two dominant victories, one against the visiting Brock Bulldogs and the other against the Titans of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary were just a byproduct of the development of the senior Red Hawks girls' volleyball team, said their coach Steve Smith.

The Hawks beat the Bulldogs 2-0 (25-22 and 25-20) and then beat the Titans 2-0 (25-17 and 25-14).

The exhibition home wins on Monday, Jan. 13 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School provided Hawks supporters plenty to cheer for and gave the players confidence, but for Smith this time of the season with exhibition matches is about learning, developing and working to meet the team's potential for a deep run into the playoffs, which begin in February.

"Wins will help their confidence, but, as I said before, losses actually help with their development as well because then they don't think they can win every time they go out. I want them to have that attitude when they get on the court that they can win whatever, or whoever they play," he said. "Today, they're going in the right direction."

The team demonstrated the ability to raise their level of play, stringing together several deep, low and hard serves, and employing an effective attack even when the initial return of serve pass is not cleanly taken. Against

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the Bulldogs and Titans it was apparent their level of play was superior.

Although the win and loss record on the day isn't that important, the score does provide quantified information for evaluation. Smith said the close match with the Bulldogs was partly owed to being at home.

"The first match I think they were just nervous with being at home, or whatnot. We had a little talk about that. I tried to get them to settle down and just play their style of vollevball, which they did. That's the volleyball that I know of right there," he said, referring to composed play, strong serving and passing with precision.

Smith said the team is trending in the right direction during their exhibition matches before the Kawartha qualifier.

"Every match, every point I see some improvement," he said.

The team includes Alexis Mills, Alyssa Bogardis, Ania Smolen, Emma Casey, Gillian Rosik, Haley Boylan, Jordyn Nichols, Rebecca Archibald, Ruthie Parker and Skye Lambshead.

The captains of the senior team are Emma Casey and Rebecca Archibald. The coaching staff for the seniors includes Michelle

#### Junior Hawks win and split matches

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One court over, separated by a space for warm-ups, the juniors were also playing concurrently.

They won 2-0 (25-13 and 25-14) against Brock to open their afternoon, but tied the Titans 1-1(25-11 and 22-25) to finish the day.

Coach Dan Gimon said he was happy about the team's overall performance.

However the lone loss was attributed to a loss of mental focus and the team will move on and improve from what he called a "terrible" last set, which saw a loss of 10 points to serving errors mainly.

Gimon said he knows the team can be

It's the mental part that, again, we will work on," he said. "We have to get those serves over.'

His message to the team was simple:

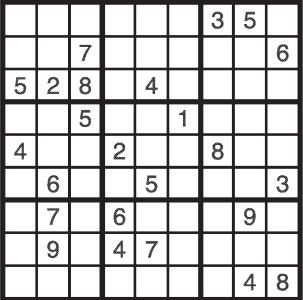
"It's up to you guys. I can tell you what to do, but once you're out there you guys have to perform," he said.





Above, Red Hawks senior players Alyssa Bogardis, left, Skye Lambshead and Rebecca Archibald wait at the net for a return from the **Brock Bulldogs** during Kawartha **High School League** action on Monday, Jan. 13 at Haliburton **Highlands Secondary** School. The Hawks beat the Bulldogs 2-0 (25-22 and 25-20) and then finished the day of exhibition play undefeated, beating the Titans of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School 2-0 (25-17 and 25-14)./DARREN LUM Staff

Left, Red Hawks senior player Rebecca Archibald watches her hit elude the block of Brock Bulldogs defenders.



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Answers on page 16



#### Fridays 11:00am-1:30pm

#### Haliburton Dates:

January 10, 24 February 7, 21

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#### Minden Dates: January 17, 31

February 14, 28 March 13. 27

For more info, or to register for these dates, contact Elisha at eweiss@mindenhills.ca

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## Hawks spike down victories at home, finish undefeated

by DARREN LUM Times Staff

Three matches. Three wins. One goal for the Red Hawks junior girls' volleyball team.

A long run in the Kawartha High School Volleyball League's post-season, which will allow the team to play and host the Central Ontario Secondary Schools Association championships, was at the heart of the strong showing that saw the juniors win all three of their exhibition matches on Thursday, Jan. 9 at home in Haliburton.

It's the only scenario that will enable the Hawks to have another home tournament, following the undefeated play on Thursday, Jan. 9 at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary

The Hawks played three consecutive matches, beating the Port Hope Spartans 2-0 (25-12 and 25-15) first, then the Kenner Rams 2-0 (25-15 and 25-13), and finished the day 2-0 against the Norwood Knights (25-7 and 25-11). Of the Hawks' three opponents, Port Hope was the strongest.

Coach Dan Gimon said he loved how his team dictated the play.

He believes a major strength for the team, which includes coach Janice Scheffee, is its depth. "I'm happy with them all. We played, basically, two lines and they were very equal, which is a coach's dream. We don't have a strong line and a weak line. We've got two strong lines," he said. "I love it."

In the past, he said, there have been a strong starting six and a weaker bench.

"We have a strong bench now and I've told the girls that. You make it easy on us. If somebody is having a bad day, then you can go on and I have confidence that you'll be able to carry it and that's great. They all know that. We're working on confidence. We're working on composure. I've done that the last two years. That's kind of my philosophy is that if you're confident, you're going to play well," he said.

Players of note include Kiera Casey, who played solidly at setter and also served well, which included more than half of the 25 points for winners against the Norwood Knights.

Gimon said he liked the play of Kristina Barry, who was strong with serving and hits on the day, libero Brooke Stover, who he said is so quick sometimes she "overruns the ball," and Bella Smolen.

The team captains are Emmerson Wilson and Ava Smith.

Gimon, who was the senior Red Hawks volleyball coach the past two years, said the team is developing well, particularly with their ability to read plays instead of reacting to them.

"They've still got a ways to go, but they're coming along nicely. That was one of the reasons why I wanted to drop down to junior [and coach] is to teach the reading and anticipation aspect as opposed to reacting. Typically, players that don't have a lot of experience, they react more than anticipating. If they can read and anticipate, you can get to the ball quicker, you can play better," he said.



Red Hawks player Kiera Casey tips the ball during Kawartha High School Vollebyall League exhibition play.



Red Hawks libero Brooke Stover passes the ball on a return of serve during Kawartha High School Volleyball League exhibition play on Thursday, Jan. 9 in Haliburton. The Hawks finished undefeated in three matches, beating Port Hope, Kenner and Norwood. The team includes Emma Miller, Olivia Villamere, Sophie Longo, Liah Gallant, Crystal Petry and Abby Rosik. / **DARREN LUM Staff** 

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

#### **COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Application FOR Minor Variance**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Hearing on:

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:30 AM LOCATION: Municipal Council Chambers 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario

to consider minor variance applications PLMV2019070, and PLMV2019071. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider the proposed Minor Variances to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act. The minor variance applications being considered are listed below:

PLMV2019071 - Part of Lot 30, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Snowdon; being Vacant Land east of Ritchie Falls Road (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit a 90 m2 (968.8sq.ft.) Hunt Camp together with a 20.8 m2 (224sq.ft.) Sleeping Cabin to be located on the property and to permit the property to be used in the absence of any required parking stalls. The variance sought would allow for a Hunt Camp larger than the 60 m2 (645.8sq.ft.) maximum and for the use to be permitted absent the required 4 parking stalls.



PLMV2019070 - Part of Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; municipally known as 1020 Moore Lake Estates Road; and located on Gull River (see Kev Map)

Purpose and Effect of the Application: To permit the construction of a 26.8 m2 (288sq.ft.) car port to be constructed at a distance of 1.67m. (5'6") from the north side lot line; for a 11.1 m2 (120sq.ft.) addition to the existing deck which is located at a distance of 7.6m. (25') from the High Water Mark; and for a 29.7 m2 (320sq.ft.) addition to the existing 69.1 m2 (744sq.ft.) dwelling which is located at a distance of 12m. (39'5") from the High Water Mark. The variance sought would allow for a carport within the required side yard setback, a 60% increase in size of the existing, non-complying deck, and a 43% increase in the size of the existing, non-complying dwelling, whereas no increase in size is otherwise permitted for structures located within 15m. (49'3") of the High Water Mark, and a Carport would otherwise be 4.5m. (14'9") from a side lot line.



HAVE YOUR SAY: Input on the above noted applications is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Township. If you do not attend the public meeting, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in The Planning Act, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: To provide input in writing, or to requestwritten notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

MORE INFORMATION: Additional information regarding these applications will be available for public inspection until noon on the day of the hearing at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department during normal office hours, and online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the

ACCESSIBILITY: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

For more information about this matter contact iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

Ian Clendening, MPI., ACST Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment P.O. Box 359, 7 Milne Street, Minden ON., K0M 2K0

#### **UPCOMING**

## Community **Events**

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to find out more or to register.

#### **Ladies Night at the Museum**

When: Thursday, Jan. 16, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Where: Haliburton Highlands Museum

The motto of the Haliburton Highlands Museum is "Telling the Story of All of Us," but what is our community's story? Join museum director Kate Butler for a fun journey through our community's history, guided by 10 of her favourite artifacts from the collection.

Hosted by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Haliburton Highlands. All women who are considering becoming a CFUW member are welcome to join. Cost: Free

More information: www.cfuwhh.ca

#### The Highland Trio in the Clubroom

When: Saturday, Jan. 18, 3 to 6 p.m. Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom Cost: \$5 cover charge for non-members \*50/50 draw at 6 p.m.

#### **Minden Agricultural Society**

**Annual General Meeting** When: Saturday, Jan. 18, 12 p.m.

Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle Street,

Come and enjoy a complimentary lunch and meet many of our volunteers. More information: Eric Casper, 705-455-7997, casper.3742@gmail.com

#### Wilberforce Heritage Guild **Annual General Meeting**

When: Wednesday Jan. 22, 7 p.m. Where: The Red Cross Outpost Historic House Museum, 2314 Loop Road in Wilberforce

Everyone is welcome to attend!

#### **Sexual Health Clinic**

When: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205

#### **Haliburton Highlanders Pipes & Drums Robbie Burns Night**

When: Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion

Pipes & drums, dancing, Scottish music, a taste of haggis

\$20 per person. Tickets available at Canoe FM: 705-457-1009. Only 100 tickets, so get yours now!

#### **Community Conversation on Living and Dying Well**

When: Monday, Jan. 27, 1 to 3 p.m. Where: Dorset Recreation Centre Hospice Pull up a chair, grab a coffee and join in the conversation. Open discussion about life to end of life journey. Supported group chat to ask questions about issues of concern to you in your journey. Facilitated discussion to

#### develop and share strategies on living and dying well. **Gord Kidd & No Friends**

When: Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 to 5 p.m.

Where: Minden Legion

Lunch available to purchase from 12 to 2 p.m.,

Meat Draw at 1 p.m.

# Cost of healthy eating remains out of reach for many

New year, same result. That in a nutshell describes the ongoing challenges many families in Haliburton County, Northumberland County, and the City of Kawartha Lakes face to pay for healthy food. In its annual pricing for a Nutritious Food Basket in this area, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit estimates an average family of four (two adults, a teen and child) would've had to spend nearly \$875 per month to eat healthy in 2019. The Nutritious Food Basket consists of more than 60 food items that are nutritious and commonly purchased by people. Items not included in the "basket" are essentials like soap, toilet paper, toothpaste and personal care products.

While the 2019 costing for a nutritious food basket is similar to prices in 2017 and 2018, increases in other monthly expenses such as housing and transportation mean people are struggling to put healthy food on the table, says Elsie Azevedo Perry, a public health nutritionist with the local health unit.

"People are not making enough money, whether they rely on social assistance or work in minimum-wage jobs," she says. "This means families must decide if they will buy healthy foods or pay for other basics like rent. Children who live in poverty will pay the price in the long run. We know that not having enough food - or the fear of not having enough - may lead to more anxiety, depression and other mental health problems."

A recent study shows that many low-income families who cannot afford to eat healthy food work in full- or part-time jobs. Feed Ontario's Hunger Report 2019 (www.feedontario. ca/hunger-report-2019) found a 27 per cent increase over the past three years in the number of adults who are working and using food banks.

While food banks, emergency meal programs, and other programs do an excellent job to provide some relief in the short term to address the problem, they are not long-term solutions, Azevedo Perry says. "We forget that food banks were only supposed to be temporary solutions," she says. "What we really need is to find a long-term solution to food insecurity and poverty."

Food insecurity is when people do not have enough money to buy food to adequately feed themselves. The problem can only be addressed when people earn enough money, says Azevedo Perry. "We need income solutions, such as creating jobs that provide living wages and benefits, increasing social assistance rates that reflect the true costs of living, and setting up a basic income guarantee in Canada," she adds. "Ensuring there is more adequate and affordable housing will also help.

With food prices expected to rise again in 2020, local residents are encouraged to find out more about the issue, including the need for a living wage and other income solutions. To do so, they can visit the No Money For Food... is Cent\$less campaign website (www.odph.ca/cent\$less).

Submitted by the HKPR Health Unit



## **Bowling Scores**

#### Monday afternoon, Jan. 6

High Average (cumulative)

Women - Cathy Snell - 219

Men - Rick West - 229

This Week's Highs – Women

High Single – June Fortune – 256

High Single Hcp – June Fortune – 311

High Triple – Cathy Snell – 672 High Triple Hcp – June Fortune – 738

This Weeks Highs - Men

High Single - Gary Hunt - 313

High Single Hcp – Gary Hunt – 340

High Triple – Gary Hunt – 760

High Triple Hcp – Gary Hunt – 841

#### Tuesday afternoon - Jan. 7

Men

High Average – Ken Thompson – 195 High Single – Ken Thompson – 257 High Single H/C – Al Humphries – 285 High Triple – Ken Thompson – 660

High Triple H/C – Ken Thompson – 738

High Average - Chris Cote - 184 High Single – Chris Cote – 240 High Single H/C – Chris Cote – 273

High Triple – Chris Cote – 551

High Triple H/C – Mabel Clendenning – 719

#### Thursday Afternoon Jan. 9

Ladies

High Single – Joan Bell – 218

High Single hdcp – Joan Bell – 283

High Triple – Jackie Sheridan – 513 High Triple hdcp – Jackie Sheridan – 732

High Single - Doug Reinwald - 257

High Single hdcp – Doug Reinwald – 284

High Triple – Doug Reinwald – 676

High Triple hdcp – Doug Reinwald – 757

#### Haliburton Red Wolves Bowling Scores

Kim Buie 170, Emily Boccittoo 168, Caitlin Peacock 163, Skylar Pratt 154, Casey Heley 147, Skylar Pratt 144



#### 2020 Budget and 2020 Tax Ratios, Tax Rates and **Tax Capping Bylaws**

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that Haliburton County Council will be reviewing the 2020 Budget, 2020 Tax Ratios, Tax Rates and Tax Capping Bylaws on:

• Wednesday January 22 at 9:00 am

Michael Rutter, CAO/County Clerk 11 Newcastle Street P.O. Box 399 Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 Telephone: (705) 286-1333 or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 223 Fax: (705) 286-4829 e-mail: mrutter@county.haliburton.on.ca

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1	7	4	6	8	3	5	9	2
8	9	2	4	7	5	6	3	1
6	5	3	1	9	2	7	4	8



#### Students in space

Jessica Byers, left, and Cynthia Mitchell check out "The Geocentric Mind" by HHSS student Jasmine Moghini at the Spaced Out exhibit at Rails End Gallery in Haliburton Jan. 10. Art students in Grade 11 and 12 explored themes of physical space, outer space, and one's mental space through the work. The show is on until Jan. 25. /JENN WATT

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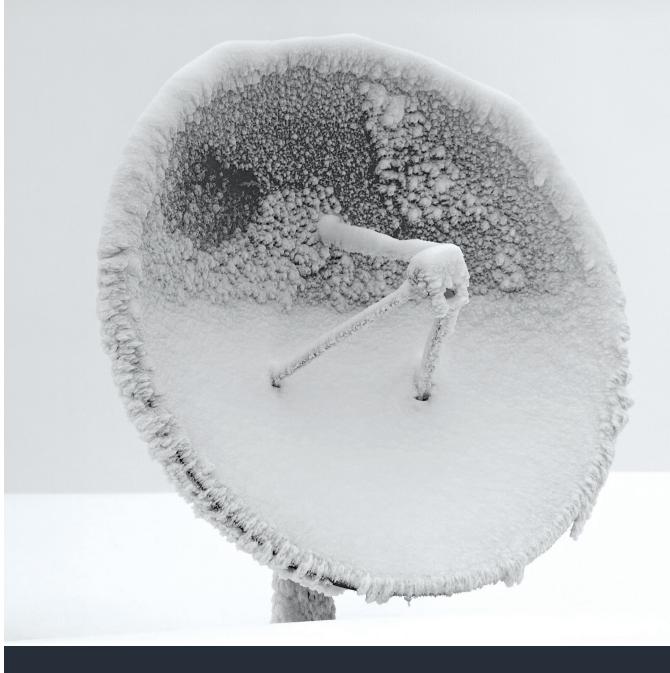
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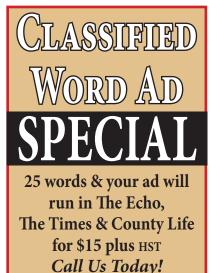
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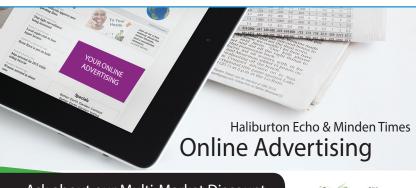


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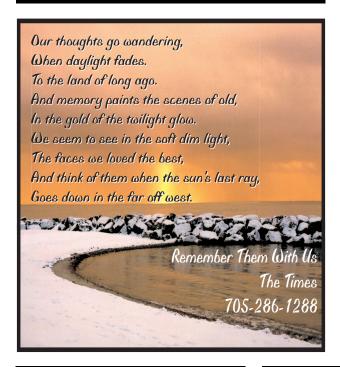
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D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden would like to thank all those who donated to our Poppy Fund and the members and volunteers who distributed poppies during the November campaign.

We also like to take this opportunity to thank the business owners who allowed our boxes in their establishments and to those who also made special donations. Your support is greatly

Happy New Year to All!

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650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES

#### In Loving Memory of John "Jack" Joseph Cornet Woodcroft

March 15, 1936 - January 7, 2020

With sadness and hope we announce the death and new journey of Jack.

His wife, Patricia (nee Heaven), and children Sheila (Keith), Liz (Ian), Dave and Geoff (Jenn), along with his grandchildren, Luke, Ben, Jake,

Meli, Connor and Jakki wish you to honour him by sharing memories, stories and Wisdom of his over 83 trips around the sun. Jack predeceased parents are Richard Woodcroft and Dorothy (nee Weller) Woodcroft. He is survived by his sister Veronica (aka Aunt Ron), and several cousins, nephews and nieces.

Jack is a man of story; from the Hamilton Harbour days, through years of loyal service with Stelco, his years of dedicated service the Masonic Lodge, various Curling communities, his profound and generous service in the Ontario and National Lung Associations, International Asthma Council, and the Haliburton Health Services Foundation, it is in all of this that Jack glows in the story. Jack is a recipient of the Order of Canada.

His kids continue to recall the stock phrases, quirky behaviour, burnt pork chops, and loud supper conversation, those types of things that makes Jack such a unique figure in so

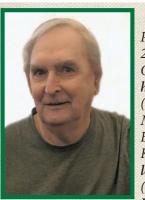
Although no funeral ceremony is planned, as per Jack's wishes, we encourage one and all to give thanks to God for Jack, for that for which he lived and fought, for all that is great in his life, and for those unique moments we have captured in memory of him.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

650 **OBITUARIES**  650 OBITUARIES



#### HARVEY, PETER JOHN "PJ"

Passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at Centennial Place, Millbrook. PJ of Millbrook, ON, formerly of Minden, was 75 years of age. Beloved husband of Gloria for 46 years. Loving father of Jeff (Christine), Michelle (Marty), Mandy, Marianne, Marlaena (Wayne), Sean (Crystal), Laura (Heiko) and Becky (Keanu). Dear Papa of Sam, Jonathan, Katy, Katie, Joel, Chloe, Jacob, Avery, Moss and Lilianne. Much loved brother of Gary (Sandy), Anne (Bob), Patrick (Joan) and the late Andrew (surviving wife Candice). PJ touched the lives of so many around him, and will

be remembered by nieces, nephews, and many other relatives and friends. PJ, a true artist, specialized in classic car restoration, and had interest and was talented in so many areas throughout his life: painting and drawing, photography, fishing, tying flies and made a business of creating his own line of fishing lures, worked on models and dioramas, and was a history/aviation/WW II buff, among so many other passions. Cremation has occurred, a Celebration of Life will be held at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church, 28 King St. W., Millbrook, on Saturday, January 18th, 2020 from 11am-3pm. Words of Remembrance at 1pm.

Loved ones are encouraged to bring memories, photos, PJ's artwork and your well wishes. If desired, donations are appreciated to the Heart & Stroke Foundation (can be made at www. communityalternative.ca) or to the church (a collection box will be at the celebration for use of the church space). A special thanks to the staff at Centennial Place for their amazing care of PJ & Gloria, and the consideration shown towards our family at this time.

## assifieds Minden Times

Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Monday

6**50** OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES

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*In Loving Memory of* 

#### **Garth Harrison Windsor**

Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at the age of 89.

Beloved husband of the late Helen (nee Morency), dear father of Sandra, Chris (Jim- predeceased), Dwayne (Claire) and

Mark (Irene). Loving grandfather of Kelly (Tony), Jocelyn (Andrew), Carter, Catherine (Gerald), Steven (Stacey), Amanda, Jamie Lee (Nick), Tyler and great grandfather of Riley, Bryce, Brianne, Brooke, Madison, Whitney, Victoria, Jordyn, Logan, Cole, Cora Belle, Emery, Mikalah, Cooper and Lilah. Dear brother of Phyllis Epp (Don) and Craig Windsor. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends. Garth spent his career in the railroad and retired to Carnarvon in 1986. He was involved in the church and the Knights of Columbus. Garth will be remembered for the time he gave to others and for his great sense of humour. A special thanks to the Hyland Crest Staff, Residents and Minden Emergency Staff for all the care and friendship they showed Garth over the years.

A Graveside Service will be held in the Spring at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery, Carnarvon. A Gathering to Celebrate Garth's Life will be held with the date and time that will be announced in the Spring.

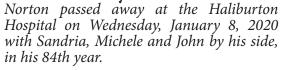
Memorial Donations to the Canadian Diabetes Association or the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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*In Loving Memory of* 

#### Norton Garry



Beloved husband and best friend to Sandria for 58 years. Loving father to Michele and John, grandfather to Julia and foster father to Daike. Brother to Rosalyn Lohnes and her husband Robert, uncle to Cheryl,

Jonathon, Ryan, Lorie Coles and Cody. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and his many good friends.

Friends are invited to a Gathering to Celebrate Norton's Life at the Minden Curling Club, 50 Prentice St, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 on Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 2:00 until 5:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation (Cancer Centre) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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#### VALENTEYN, Jane (Jean)

Passed away after a short battle with cancer at Port Perry Hospital on Wednesday December 25th with family by her side.

Beloved wife of the late John Valenteyn (1967) and the late Roy Ernest Hartwick (2014). Cherished mother of Patricia (David Hazzan), Johanna (late Peter Hallahan), John, Karen and Tanya (Angelo Raso). Much loved grandmother of Erin (Bob Phillips), Lauren (George Smith) Amanda, Meaghan, and Ariana and great grandmother of Madelynne, Evie and Quentin. Dear sister of Eileen (John Copeland) and predeceased by Sheila, Mary (surviving John Killen), Kathleen,

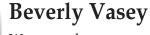
Jean, as she was known to family and friends, emigrated from Belfast Northern Ireland settling in the Holland Marsh in 1955. She later moved to Kinmount then the Lindsay area and finally to Port Perry in 2014. Jean was an accomplished seamstress and tailor, passing this skill down to her four daughters and she especially loved to sew for her children and grandchildren. Jean loved to sing and family members will have many fond memories of her lovely alto voice singing along with the radio. Most of all, family and friends will miss Jean's mischievous, wry wit and hearty, infectious laugh.

Brigid (Bridie) (surviving Frank Johnston), Samuel, Patricia, Elizabeth and Josephine.

A Celebration of Jane's Life will be held at Trillium Trails (53 Snow Ridge Court, Oshawa) on Sunday March 1st 2020 from 10: 30-3: 30 with remembrances being shared at 11: 00 a.m.

Messages of condolence and shared memories can be left for the family by visiting barnesmemorialfuneralhome.com

For those who wish, and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Durham Down Syndrome Association.



We are sad to announce the passing of Beverly Vasey (nee James) on December 23, 2019, after being hospitalized for a brief illness. She was a wonderful and loving sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all those she met. She leaves behind her sister Penny, daughters Kitty and Colleen, grandchildren James, Matthew, Christian and Clare and many loving extended family members. She is predeceased by her precious husband Hugh and will be laid to rest with him in Minden, Ontario.



A funeral service will be held at Cooksville United Church (2500 Mimosa Row), Mississauga, on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to Cooksville United Church (www. cooksvilleunitedchurch.org) or The Dorothy Ley Hospice (www.dlhospice.org) in her memory. We were all very blessed to have known and loved Beverly. Condolences can be made through www.turnerporter.ca







Number 1821

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Monday, January 26, 1998

\$13.7 million green light

## Infrastructure funding assures health projects

It was standing room only at Haliburton County council chamber last Wednesday, January 21. The occasion was the long anticipated announcement regarding funding for the Haliburton and Minden hospitals.

The official announcement was made, at the county council meeting, that the Canada/Ontario Works Program funding for Haliburton County health care facilities had been approved.

Victoria-Haliburton riding MPP Chris Hodgson and MP John O'Reilly and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Board Chair, Hugh Nichol, shared the spot light to make the official announcement. The funding approval was for \$13.7 million with one-third being provided by the federal and provincial levels of government and one-third by the community.

Chris r Wednesday's was one more step in the long process of improving health care in Haliburton County.

"It is the result of years of hard work by countless individuals," Hodgson said, adding that there are still a few more hurdles to overcome. "The province's goal is to ensure that Ontarians can have access to the health services they need through every stage of their lives," he said. "Today's announcement is helping us to fulfil this objective for the people of Haliburton, Minden and

the surrounding area.
"The Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works Program is designed to create jobs and improve the quality of life in large and small communities throughout this province. It gives me great pleasure to know that the project we announce today will ensure better health care services in this region," said John O'Reilly. "This will contribute to an increased sense of security for people who need long-term care and will create more than 200 short-term jobs in the con-

(more on page 4)

## Dogs lead the charge into a busy winter weekend

The fourteenth annual Minden Techni-Cal Challenge is a go for this weekend. Organizers are confident that the weather will hold and that the community will be treated to days of exciting sled dog racing.

The trails are in excellent condition", director Stu Brandon said Saturday morning after completing a circuit of the four and eight mile loops. "Even this bit of rain we're getting today should help to firm up the trail.'

The committee's optimism is tempered by the fact that the race has been postponed once this year due to less than ideal trail conditions and the speed with which weather patterns can reverse snow conditions. "At this point it is all system go," Race Governor Val Lougheed said. "The long range fore-

(more on page 5)



#### Fire breathing babysitter

Fortunately for eight-month-old Aylish Stromberg, TVO's Dudley the Dragon is a friendly critter. The prehistoric character visited Minden's CHACE Day Care on Wednesday to assist in the babysitting chores, while mom and dad took a minute to four the facility. The open house was organized to give the community a chance to see what the program has to offer. This was one of a number of appearances Dudley made throughout the county last week.

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